

10-15-2020

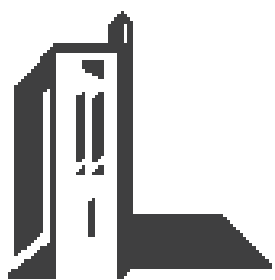
Kenyon Collegian - October 15, 2020

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College reports fourth positive COVID-19 test, first flu case

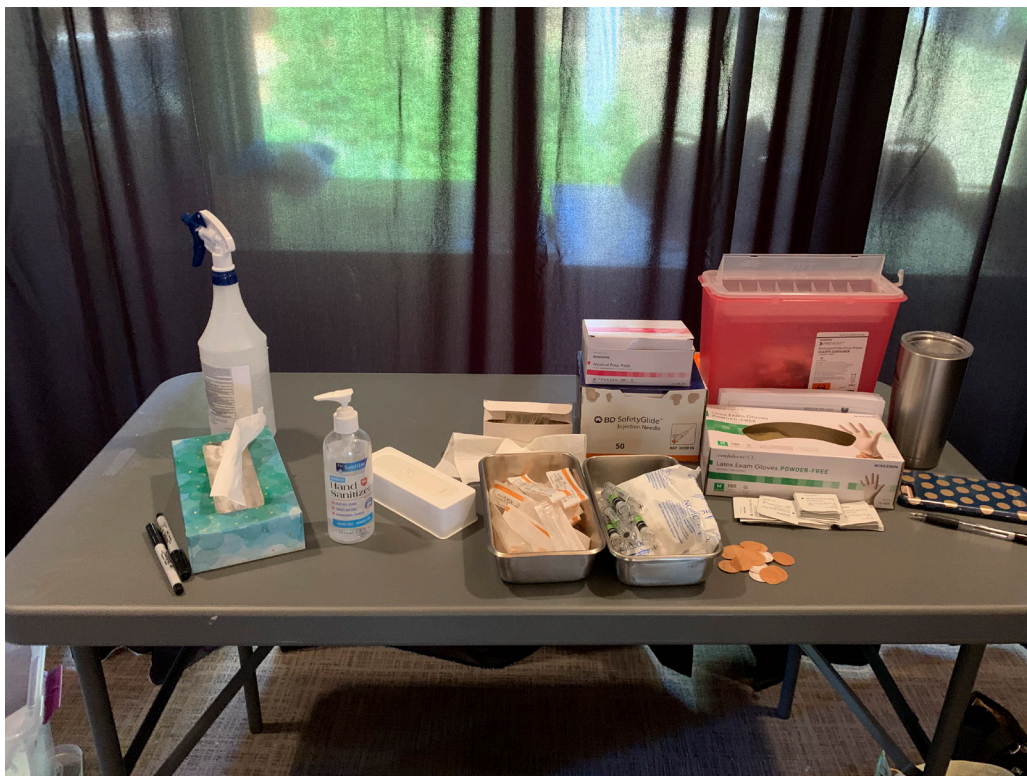
AMANDA PYNE
NEWS ASSISTANT

On Friday, Oct. 9, the College recorded a fourth positive test result for coronavirus on the COVID-19 Dashboard. The College also confirmed one on-campus case of the flu as of Monday.

This most recent case of COVID-19 is attributed to a College employee who sought a test after suspecting exposure, according to Director of Cox Health and Counseling Center Chris Smith. While residential students are tested once a month, employees, faculty and staff are only tested at the beginning of the semester, according to Smith.

“All College employees should not be tested again — won’t be tested again — until the beginning of the spring semester,” Smith said. “We offered the one-time testing, and then if people think they’ve been exposed, if they develop symptoms, we typically direct them to a local public health authority or a medical provider.”

Smith called the situation a “flu,” as College employees would not be able to seek further testing at the Health Center this



Students must receive flu vaccinations this season. | SARA HALEBLIAN

semester. “Before we were able to get them clear guidance [on what to do], their office had COVID tests remaining, so they just took one,” Smith said, referring to the employee who tested positive. He did not elaborate as to why employees were only being tested

once per semester.

The College Dashboard states that there have been four positive test results and one recovered case. The College has received 4,390 tests to date, 290 of which were received in the last week. As of Wednesday, six students were

in quarantine, which is up from one student on Monday. According to Smith, no virus has been detected in wastewater recently.

Ultimately, Smith acknowledged that the success of the College’s COVID-19 plan in preventing an outbreak depends as much

on luck as it does on adherence to health and safety protocol. “I think we have a solid plan and we’re executing that plan to the best of our abilities — and a large portion of it is luck,” he said. “We know that students are still going to Walmart, they’re still going to Kroger, they’re still going to other places where they could be exposed. So we’re really getting lucky.”

In order to prevent the confounding of flu and COVID-19 outbreaks, the College decided to require flu vaccines for all students in residence this semester. Students are being given their vaccine free of charge as they go in for their monthly COVID-19 tests.

In previous years, the Health Center has typically charged \$18 for the vaccine, which covers the wholesale cost. “Hopefully we’ll keep this going for years to come and this will be a good thing that comes out of COVID for the campus,” Smith said, noting that a free vaccine makes it accessible to students who may not be able to afford one.

Regular COVID-19 updates will be posted to the College’s COVID-19 Dashboard.

Greek Council adjusts fall recruitment plans amid pandemic

LINNEA MUMMA
NEWS EDITOR

Despite the unusual circumstances brought about by the pandemic, Greek Council announced on Sept. 29 that fall recruitment will happen over an extended, recommended four-week period.

Organizations will have the ability to submit schedules for their recruitment events, which are starting next week. Once they’ve submitted these schedules, Greek Council will give organizations permission to proceed with the recruitment process. Though there is no official timeline, Greek Council advised organizations to complete their recruitment periods by Oct. 31.

According to President of Greek Council James Loveland ’22, the only organizations that have submitted their recruitment schedules for approval are Alpha Sigma Tau (AST), Phi Kappa Tau (Phi Tau) and Phi Kappa Sigma. The Archons Society is planning to submit a schedule to Greek Council as well.

With only a handful of active members on campus, Greek organizations are getting creative for fall recruitment. Some groups have a mixture of in-person and virtual events, while other organizations have chosen to hold exclusively virtual events.

Last spring, many organizations had yet to initiate their new members by the time campus closed due to COVID-19, leaving them with a small number of sophomore members. Because of this, it became difficult to plan recruitment, according to AST President Liz

Cleveland ’21, especially when most on-campus members had not been initiated into the organization.

Cleveland said that AST only has two active members on campus. However, to abide by their national requirements, the sorority had no choice but to continue with recruitment this fall despite only having a few on-campus members. All of AST’s recruitment events, which begin next week, will take place over Zoom. “The national organization gave us advice and resources to help us plan virtual events,” Cleveland said. “We’re going to be using breakout rooms a lot, but it’s hard to get that same connection with people.”

The Phi Taus are taking a different approach, hosting both in-person and virtual recruitment events. In order to follow the College’s COVID-19 guidelines, the in-person events will be limited to 10 people. One of their more popular events, “Milkshakes and Storytelling,” will take place on campus, but Phi Tau President Henry Biedron ’21 doesn’t anticipate the group exceeding capacity. The event will operate on a “first come, first serve” basis.

“To be honest, it would be a very pleasant surprise if we had to enforce a numbers ban, just because we don’t usually get that much traffic,” he said.

Though it is not yet clear what the future holds for the spring recruitment season, Loveland said the plans will depend on who is on campus next semester. If juniors and seniors return in the spring, recruitment will look similar to this semester. Loveland hopes



South Quad houses many Greek orgs. | EMILIANA CARDINALE

that, once first-year students return to campus, recruitment will proceed as it normally does, which may not be until fall 2021. He is optimistic that first years will still have a more traditional recruitment experience.

Despite facing setbacks in the recruitment process, Biedron emphasized that all Greek organizations have an obligation to provide students with a “second family” and to keep

the campus community safe.

“We understand that as an organization on campus, we have a lot of responsibility to public health and safety and to keeping our fellow students — as well as faculty members — safe,” Biedron said. “We really want to honor that, and make sure we’re not putting anybody in more danger than they need to be.”

Student Council discusses proposal for new College flag

SPENCER HIRSCH
STAFF WRITER

On Sunday, Oct. 11, Student Council met to discuss a proposed digital communication system for student organizations and continue deliberation of an update to Kenyon's official flag. The first-year class representatives, as well as the first-year class president, also introduced themselves to the Council.

Madi Hamilton '23, a student representing the Office of Green Initiatives, presented an idea for a new screen system that would allow student organizations to advertise virtually rather than posting flyers. Though there is already one monitor in front of the servery in Peirce Dining Hall, it currently only displays dining information.

Hamilton believes that the switch to digital promotion will not only be more environmentally friendly, but also allow a wider network of communication. "We're trying to reduce Kenyon's paper [usage]," Ham-

ilton said. "This is hopefully a system that allows student organizations to have an easier time reaching out to the entire student base."

Hamilton hopes that a campus-wide network of monitors will keep students informed on the activities of organizations in an interactive and engaging manner. Dean of Campus Life Laura Kane, the Council's faculty advisor, said that the Office of Student Engagement would handle the management of the proposed network, but for now, the idea is still being considered by the Council.

Also noteworthy was the continued discussion of a potential change to Kenyon's flag, first suggested by Alex Gilkey '21 in February 2019. At Student Council's Oct. 4 meeting, Gilkey presented his proposal, which he had been developing and gathering student input on over the last two years, and asked representatives from each Council committee to give feedback on his design. At this week's meeting, committee representatives shared their opinions which varied. But



Student Council heard a proposal for a flag redesign. | COURTESY OF ALEX GILKEY

overall, Student Council decided to support Gilkey's proposal, and they agreed to formally approve the design at next week's meeting. Gilkey will then take his proposal to President Sean

Decatur.

At the end of the meeting, the Council introduced First-Year Class President Aram Ebrahimian '24, along with the other first-year student govern-

ment representatives.

The next Student Council meeting is scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 18 at 7:00 p.m. The agenda and meeting link will be sent via a Student-Info email.

Mount Vernon City Council assesses township contracts

AMELIA CARNELL
STAFF WRITER

On Monday, Oct. 12, the Mount Vernon City Council held its first hybrid meeting. They discussed renewal of township contracts, which expire at the end of this year, an ordinance relating to the Kenyon Community Internship Program and a construction project in downtown Mount Vernon.

City Council members and Mount Vernon Mayor Matthew Star met at City Hall, separated by plexiglass barriers. All observers watched the meeting remotely via Zoom. All council members wore masks, though some had their masks below their nose. Council-

members expressed happiness that they were able to convene together for the first time since March. "It's great to be together," said Councilmember Samantha Scales.

Mount Vernon provides fire, police and road maintenance resources to small townships — including the College Township — in Knox County. The Council discussed plans to standardize the rates townships pay the city for services to a standard \$5 million, and to adjust terms so that, beginning in 2025, all contracts will be up for renewal at the same time every five years. Rick Dzik, Mount Vernon safety service director, said that this was not a huge shift, as many townships are already at

or above the \$5-million level (the College Township, he said, is at \$6 million).

There is an additional \$6 million levy on the ballot in Gambier this year to support the College Township Fire Department. The Council expressed concern, should the levy not pass, about the feasibility of continuing to provide resources to the Fire Department based on the funding it currently receives. "That is probably not enough for us to be able to justify covering [the] Township," said Dzik.

The Council also passed Ordinance No. 2020-36, which will establish a pay rate of \$10 per hour for workers hired as part of the Kenyon Community Internship Program. This wage falls just

above Kenyon's Grade Level II pay rate of \$9.92 per hour.

The Buildings and Lands Committee led a conversation about a renovation project for the former site of the Mount Vernon Middle School on North Mulberry Street. Developer Joel Mazza plans to demolish the building and build a housing development in its place. Mazza, recognizing the building's historical and personal significance to residents, said he will keep the building's existing facade, after having determined it was structurally sound.

The next Mount Vernon City Council meeting will take place on Oct. 26. The Zoom link to the meeting can be found on the City Council website.

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Applications close for next Strategic Planning Committee

ZOE PACKEL
STAFF WRITER

Applications for the Strategic Planning Committee closed on Sunday, Oct. 4. The Committee, spearheaded by the Office of the President and supported by Student Council, will create a plan — picking up from where the 2020 Plan left off — to take the College into its next five years.

The Committee will consist of students, staff, faculty and members of the Board of Trustees. It will outline a list of priorities and specific goals for the College as it enters a new decade and approaches its bicentennial.

According to Student Council Vice President for Student Life Ubongabasi Asuquo '23, the application process aimed to attract students who may not have previously been involved with Student Council or College planning, but are passionate about improving life on campus. Specifically, applicants were asked what Kenyon would ideally look like to them, and were encouraged to offer potential solutions to problems they identified on campus.

Asuquo predicted that the Committee would be interested in addressing issues such as student mental health services and accessibility, but noted that more specific focuses would emerge following community input. Berklich noted that previous planning committees focused on increasing student internship opportunities and improving access to facilities for low-income students. He expects that the Strategic Planning Committee will pursue similar programs, as well as continuing anti-racism efforts



Ransom Hall is home to the Office of the President. Decatur is leading a new strategic plan. | SARA HALEBLIAN

and sustainability initiatives.

Student Council President Bradley Berklich '22 was pleased with the number of applications the Council received and was optimistic about the new Committee's ability to reflect student concerns and desires. Berklich hopes that the Committee will be effective in streamlining communication between the student body and the administration.

"If any concerns come up within the student body, I'll try to convey those to the students

we have on [the Committee]," Berklich said.

As for the plan itself, the Committee aims to create an outline to guide priorities and resources for the next five years. President Sean Decatur described it as an opportunity to identify where past committees have been successful, as well as to acknowledge areas where the College can still improve. "It'll be interesting to hear feedback," Decatur said. "Do we need to do more? Do we need to do some things dif-

ferently than we thought of before? How do we think about that working?"

Student Council members also hope to bridge the divide between the student body and College administration, citing perceptions that planning committees often involve the same small number of individuals. To that end, Asuquo explained, the Committee plans to regularly hold open "listening sessions" to encourage community members who are not part of the group to

voice concerns and propose solutions. These sessions will also serve to include students who are interested in assisting with planning but are unable to serve on the Committee themselves.

Ultimately, the Committee's specific goals will become clear as the planning process continues. At this point, Berklich said that the Committee's broad goal is to identify ongoing issues and create a plan to make the College "a better place" as it prepares to enter its next 200 years.

Franklin County reissues nearly 50,000 ballots after debacle

EVEY WEISBLAT
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Franklin County Board of Elections mailed out nearly 50,000 replacement ballots earlier this week, correcting a technical error that resulted in thousands of Columbus-area voters receiving potentially incorrect ballots last week, the *Columbus Dispatch* reports.

The ballots, according to the Associated Press, had incorrect congressional races printed or were sent to voters in the wrong precinct. County election officials also later said that "some" of the ballots may have been correct, but did not specify how many, according to the *Dispatch*.

"We want to make it clear that every voter who received an inaccurate ballot will receive a corrected ballot," the Board said in a press release Friday. "Stringent tracking measures are in place to guarantee that a voter can only cast one vote."

Aaron Sellers, speaking on behalf of the Board, told the *Dispatch* that about 28,000 ballots were delivered to Citygate Drive Post Office Monday evening and about 22,000 were sent by Tuesday afternoon.

Franklin County voters should have begun receiving their replacement ballots on Wednesday.

The Board tweeted instructions on Tuesday for the 49,669 voters who had received mistaken ballots. It encouraged voters to "immediately discard" their original ballots and to complete the replacements with the new envelope provided by the County, even if they had already cast their mistaken ballots. The social media post reiterated that only one ballot would be counter per voter.

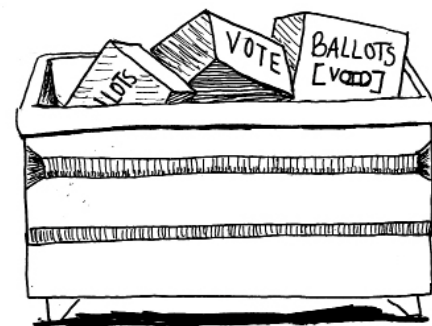
The incident comes days after early voting in the state began on Oct. 6 and less than three weeks before Election Day. The mishap is one of many recent early voting issues in the state, including a Monday report from the *Toledo Blade* that found Lucas County was struggling to confirm the status of nearly 70,000 absentee ballots mailed to voters.

Franklin County's error also drew national attention Friday, as President Donald Trump criticized the mistake on Twitter, calling it "Out of Control" and an example of the "Rigged Election!!!" In response, the Board tweeted back, "Mr. President, it certainly was a serious mis-

take, but a serious mistake that we're working hard to make right. Our board is bipartisan and our elections are fair. And every vote will be counted."

While the individual responsible for the error has yet to be identified, Board officials have said the mistake resulted from an inadvertent change to the settings of a device which puts absentee ballots into envelopes, according to the *Dispatch*. The technical error has since been corrected.

The Board has published a replacement ballot notice, including a document that lists the names of those who received ballots processed under the faulty system. Voters on the list can either wait to receive their new ballots in the mail or travel to the Franklin County Board of Elections office on Morse Road for in-person early voting, Board officials said. Ohioans can track the status of their ballots on the Ohio Secretary of State website.



NADINE RICHARDSON

Philander's Well survives pickaxes and acid in its history

WILLIAM GERHARDINGER
STAFF WRITER

On the Wiggin Street crosswalk there is a disc that says “Philander’s Well 1824-1965.” Although Kenyon students have tread over it unknowingly many times, the story of the plaque and the hole it covers is fascinating: Philander Chase’s well has shaped the way the campus looks and even caused controversy.

In a letter to his wife in 1826, Philander Chase described excavating Kenyon’s first well in a spot near Old Kenyon as a “herculean task.” This effort was wasted, though; diggers discovered the whole was dry and abandoned it, filling it with rubble before leaving, according to George Smythe in *Kenyon College, Its First Century*. Chase succeeded on his second attempt, digging a well in the place now marked by the metal disc.

It’s no coincidence that the well sits in the middle of campus because it “drew to its neighborhood the large group of buildings which the Bishop soon erected,” Smythe wrote. One can imagine that Middle Path didn’t pass near the well, but led to it.

In 1896, running water was introduced in Old Kenyon, and by 1902 more productive wells, dug at the foot of the west side of the Hill, eclipsed Chase’s, according to Smythe. Chase’s well has since remained unused.

“But in the mid 1960’s, trouble loomed,” Edward Ormad ’64 recalls in his blog, recounting how, after



A plaque commemorating Philander Chase’s original well is located on Wiggin Street. | SARA HALEBLIAN

State Route 229 was washed out in a storm, Wiggin Street was redesignated as the new Route 229. This meant the road was put under the control of the state of Ohio, which put a blank cover over the well. “The students tore up the patch,” Ormad wrote, so the state “sent in a road crew, patched the pothole, and set a state highway patrolman to guard the patch while it hardened. The students came out in force.”

As Thomas Hensley ’68 recalled, “Shortly after Philander’s Well was capped, there was a riot devoted to that sacrilege ... [and] state police appeared, to no avail. Someone procured aqua regia from the chemistry lab and poured it onto the cap. Good-bye, cap.” Others, according to Dave Foote ’66, “went in search of a pickaxe.”

Although these accounts may be hyperbolic, an April 1965 *Collegian*

article about the riots confirmed that approximately 300 students demonstrated, and had to be dispersed by law enforcement.

According to Phil Cerney ’67 in a letter to the editor published in the *Collegian*, the angry students were not demonstrating against just the well cover itself, but against “a general erosion of values in our society and in our college.” He concluded that, “Philander’s hole is the embodiment

of traditional values, and its closing is but one more step in a relentless process which is undercutting our civilization.”

Cerney may have been overstating the importance of the riots, but the demonstration led to the well’s current cover. The plaque is a reminder of this moment in Kenyon’s history, although walking over it today, one wouldn’t guess it covers a deep hole and a controversial past.

Longwell ’02 created RVAT for anti-Trump Republicans

JORDY FEE-PLATT
SPORTS EDITOR

ADAM MARGOLIS
STAFF WRITER

The website for Republican Voters against Trump (RVAT) reads, “Donald Trump is not representative of the Republican Party I fell in love with.” This sentiment encapsulates a problem that the organization is working to solve: a fragmentation within the party, in which numerous Republicans, in the wake of the 2016 election, feel like their party has abandoned them. Sarah Longwell ’02, the founder of RVAT, is one of those Republicans. From the beginning, she has opposed the Trump presidency and has done all she can to make sure Trump’s reelection campaign fails.

Longwell grew up outside the small, staunchly conservative, town of Dillsburg, Pa. She was first introduced to Kenyon by her high school philosophy teacher, an alumnus, who thought it would be a great fit. The College captivated Longwell on her visit. “I got on campus, and I knew it was the right place for me,” Longwell said.

When she arrived at Kenyon, Longwell had not yet developed a strong interest in politics. However, that changed early on. “I took the intro [political science] class Quest for Justice ... and from then on I took every political science class I could get my hands on,” said Longwell.

At Kenyon, Longwell developed relationships with political science faculty, especially Professor Emerita of Political Science Pam Jensen. She was so fond

of Jensen that she took summer seminars with her after graduating Kenyon. “The Kenyon political science department had a profound impact on my life, and set me off on my professional trajectory,” said Longwell.

Longwell’s Kenyon connections helped her land her first job. While working at the *Kenyon Observer*, a student-run political magazine, she met an alumnus who worked for a thinktank that assisted conservative college publications. He offered Longwell an interview after graduation and, subsequently, her first job.

Since then, Longwell has worked primarily in communications, managing numerous policy initiatives under the guidance of former lobbyist Richard Berman. She believes her experience as a political science major at Kenyon prepared her well.

“One of the things that Kenyon gave me through the way that it teaches was the ability to express myself clearly,” Longwell said. “It teaches you to articulate an argument — I didn’t have to swallow anyone’s agenda because I knew how to articulate what I thought.”

These lessons carried over into her other work in politics, specifically during her time on the national board of the Log Cabin Republicans. “I got comfortable pretty early with the idea that everyone was mad at you. Democrats would be mad at you for being a Republican who was gay and would just say how they couldn’t understand and didn’t see how it was possible, and Republicans, until more recently, weren’t that wild about gay people in the party,” Longwell said.

Longwell was extremely unhappy with

Trump’s election in 2016. She felt he was ill-equipped to be president and that he did not represent Republican values, so she decided to take action. With her first project, she conducted focus groups to analyze the motivations of Trump voters. “One of the things I really landed on in the research was that there were lots of people who were traditional Republican voters who did not like Donald Trump and thought he was horrible, but that they were scared of what Democrats would do,” Longwell said.

Fortunately, Longwell was not alone among her Republican colleagues. In 2017, she joined Meeting of the Concerned, a group of anti-Trump Republicans who gathered weekly to discuss their frustrations with the direction of the party. There, she connected with notable anti-Trump conservatives like Bill Kristol. In 2018, Longwell used her communications background to collaborate with Kristol and spearhead the formation of Republican Voters Against Trump (RVAT).

RVAT, she explains, has embarked on a \$25 million campaign which targets “persuadable” Republican voters, right-of-center independents and people who voted third party in 2016 to vote for Vice President Joe Biden in the upcoming election. RVAT focuses on publishing the testimonials of everyday Republicans, rather than messages from Washington policymakers.

JJ Conway ’22 and Kassie Rimel ’22 interned at RVAT over the summer after being introduced to Longwell by Professor of Political Science Fred Baumann, and subsequently deferred this semester to continue working there. The pair works with a closely knit team and its parent organiza-

tion, Defending Democracy Together, on a host of different projects. Rimel works primarily on editing testimonial videos as well as scheduling social media posts. “We’re approaching almost a thousand videos,” she said. She and Conway also chose the quotes for a billboard campaign that will be displayed in North Carolina and Pennsylvania.

They explained that their work at RVAT falls under a larger political movement. Rimel described her and Conway’s role as creating “permission structures for Republicans where they feel like they don’t have to vote for Trump.” They stand to give Republicans and other undecided voters a place where they can reconcile their beliefs with a decision to vote for Biden.

Both Rimel and Conway find the experience rewarding. “For me, it’s been very nice to see the way that people are able to come together. I really enjoy talking to people on the phone who have found the [RVAT] community,” said Rimel.

“I get to build something new,” Conway added. “Something that really resembles what I believe in, devoid of all the negative parts exposed by Trump.”

Longwell, Conway and Rimel all consider their experiences as political science majors at Kenyon as significant contributors to their confidence in their work. They are taking what they learned at Kenyon to “build coalitions and connect with people” on a fundamental human level.

Longwell is hopeful that four years of carefully gathered research on the Trump voter base will lead to his defeat on Nov. 3 and restore the morals of the Republican Party.

Writing Center implements hybrid model to serve campus

EMMA JOHNSTON
STAFF WRITER

After months of strictly online conferences, the Writing Center reopened its doors to in-person writing sessions on Sept. 7. Due to COVID-19 regulations, the Writing Center closed its workspace on the third floor of Peirce Dining Hall at the end of the spring semester. Before the pandemic, the Writing Center listed specific walk-in hours during which students could seek general writing help. However, when everything went fully remote, the Center started providing “on call” hours where writing consultants and liaisons could assist

students virtually.

With the new hybrid model, Writing Center Director Jeanne Griggs hopes that students will take advantage of the services that it provides, both online and in person. However, Griggs said that remote tutoring did not attract as many students as initially hoped. “We advertised it,” Griggs recalled, “but, to tell you the truth, we didn’t get a lot of business.” Rather, she found that most appointments were made with liaisons.

As part of her job as student manager for the Writing Center, Alexia Ainsworth ’21, conducted in-depth research during the

beginning of the pandemic on ways to effectively conduct writing conferences online. As part of their training, current writing consultants and liaisons were encouraged to read Ainsworth’s research and trained for the online Writing Center platform.

Despite their extensive training, Griggs said that there was an interpersonal aspect missing from this remote exchange. “We’re finding out what works best online,” Griggs said. “Writing conferences work particularly well when you can see the face of the person and you can look at the piece of writing.” The Writing Center is trying to do that with

every online conference, using active listening techniques.

Paige Hettinger ’21, a writing liaison for Introduction to Language and Literature (ENGL 103), recounted how online consulting had its own limitations. “It definitely took some adjustment at first,” Hettinger said. She recalled how the transition to consulting online was jarring as she grappled with the changes brought about by the pandemic. Further, the nature of the conferences had changed as well: “there is no guarantee that with the online format that I know that they are paying attention,” Hettinger said “It’s about trying to estab-

lish a rapport as much as possible right off the bat.”

In accordance with CDC regulations, the Writing Center now allows for one-on-one consultations in addition to its online on-call hours. These consultations will follow new rules, such as only having one staff member and one consultant in the room at a time. Of the first-year and sophomore students, there are enough writing consultants to maintain the in-person experience of the Writing Center. Griggs hopes that with the new hybrid model, writing consultants can still facilitate this personal connection with fellow students.

AVI continues partnership with local produce vendors



LAUREN TERESI

THERESA CARR
STAFF WRITER

For over a decade, AVI Foodsystems’ program at Kenyon has focused on purchasing food from local vendors. Even with fewer mouths to feed this semester, AVI has continued buying locally to support their existing relationships.

AVI typically purchases approximately \$740,000 worth of food from vendors located within a 40-mile radius of Kenyon, according to Resident Director of AVI Christopher Wisbey. Since AVI began serving Kenyon students in 2006, the initiative has grown beyond its initial 10% goal: according to Wisbey, AVI currently buys 42% to 44% of its food locally.

For more than a decade, AVI has es-

tablished relationships with local vendors based on mutual trust, according to Director of Local Purchasing David Kraynk. Kraynk coordinates between Kenyon and vendors, including local farms, dairies, picklers, beekeepers and meat processors. In advance of the growing season, Kraynk and the farmers cooperate to plan meal and crop schedules.

Kraynk cites several reasons that local vendors directly benefit from selling to Kenyon. According to Kraynk, selling directly to Kenyon is usually a more stable option for farmers than the most common alternative, selling at an auction. Each year, AVI agrees to pay a certain amount in advance for a certain quantity of food, whereas auction prices react to the forces of supply and demand, Kraynk said. AVI has also purchased tunnels — long green-

houses that extend the growing season of fresh produce — for some farmers.

AVI’s model has inspired neighboring institutions. Oberlin College and Ohio Wesleyan University have drawn from Kenyon’s program when adopting similar initiatives, Wisbey said. He also consulted on a local food initiative for the Mount Vernon Public School district. Wisbey and Kraynk refer Kenyon vendors to those programs, increasing their customer bases.

Given this long standing commitment, the decreased demand has not changed Kenyon’s commitment to purchasing local when possible. Despite having fewer students on campus, AVI has made a point of purchasing the amount of food that Kenyon had agreed to purchase from farmers who sell exclusively to the school. Kraynk spoke candidly with the sellers about the

pandemic early on, allowing the AVI time to plan how to use the surplus. For instance, root vegetables such as sweet potatoes, beets and potatoes will not spoil when stored in freezers for long periods, so Kraynk said that a surplus of those products has presented less of an issue.

Kraynk cited the strong relationship between Kenyon and its local suppliers as their motivation for prioritizing small vendors. “When I go buy this produce ... I’m putting money in [the vendor’s] hand, it’s buying his supplies to get through winter. It’s putting food on his table, and we realize the importance of that,” he said. “We [would] feel bad not buying from the little guy,” Wisbey said. “We’re pumping three quarter million dollars within 40 miles of this campus. That’s a huge impact on this community. To take that away, it hurts.

Antigone in Ferguson facilitates dialogue on racial injustice

GRACE WILKINS
STAFF WRITER

On Oct. 8, Theater of War Productions began their year-long residency at Kenyon with a virtual production of *Antigone in Ferguson*. An interpretation of Sophocles' *Antigone* aimed at promoting audience discussion on police brutality, the production presented a rousing rendition of the ancient play, featuring live choral music and a conversation between community members.

The Zoom performance was open to the Five Colleges of Ohio, and the subsequent discussion included student panelists from each school, faculty members, parents and other students in attendance.

Bryan Doerries '98 — the artistic director for Theater of War and leading facilitator of its post-production discussions — introduced Theater of War Productions to Kenyon on Sept. 24 with his lecture "Tragedies of the Pandemic." This lecture paved the way for their premiere of *Antigone in Ferguson*.

The production comes at a time of social and political upheaval, propelled by Michael Brown Jr.'s murder by police in

Ferguson, Mo. in 2014. The brutal police killings of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd and the disproportionate effects of COVID-19 on Black and brown communities are also major focal points of the play.

Antigone in Ferguson was introduced by Doerries as a performance with the intent to "culminate in powerful, healing discussions about racialized violence, police brutality, systemic oppression, gender-based violence and social justice." He added, "it is our hope that *Antigone in Ferguson* will generate dialogue, consciousness, compassion, outrage, understanding and positive action."

The performance opened with a powerful choral arrangement directed by Dr. Philip A. Woodmore and sung by a choir of voices from St. Louis, Missouri and New York City. This dramatic reading of Sophocles' *Antigone*, a play dating back to 441 B.C.E., features notable actors like Tracie Thoms and Jason Isaacs. The play follows Antigone, a young woman determined to bury the body of her brother Polynices after he dies in battle contesting his throne in the Theban Civil War. Creon, the new ruler of Thebes and uncle to Antigone, rules that Polynices, as a traitor to the city,

would be left untouched on the battlefield and not granted funeral rites as the ultimate punishment for his deeds. The play examines the dynamic between Antigone, the Theban people and the law of the state, and what can befall a community divided by personal convictions, murder, destruction and injustice.

After the dramatic reading, De-Andrea Blaylock-Johnson, a Missouri school social worker, and choir member, joined Doerries in facilitating and guiding post-production conversation among audience members. Blaylock-Johnson spoke on her experience working with a choir made up of community members from all walks of life. "Although we have different perspectives, we always approached each other with the intent to hear and understand, not just to respond," she said. She expressed hope that the discussion between the students and community would proceed in kind.

After Doerries and Blaylock-Johnson began the discussion immediately following the performance, panelists representing the Five Colleges presented personal stories and their initial reactions to the play. Facilitators' major questions focused on the play's continued relevance over

2400 years, and how portions of the show had resonated with the audience members' personal experiences.

Panelist Jaz Nappier, a student from the College of Wooster, began her statement noting the sense of community within the community chorus and the Black aesthetic brought to such a classical piece through its performers. Nappier and multiple audience members noted the line "May we never forget what happened here," a repeated statement in the choral arrangements, for its relevance to racialized violence. Miko Harper, of Ohio Wesleyan University, called attention to the choral lyrics, "generation after generation, this house has been cursed since the beginning of time," and generally discussed the sheer amount of tragedy and cursedness associated with Blackness.

Tariq Thompson '21 noted how Creon, leader of Thebes, constantly insisted on "placing the value of the state and city over human lives," and his disbelief that people in positions of political power often follow that model. "How can we love each other and love ourselves ... being in the face of tyranny, being in the face of hatred, that permeates?" he said.

Student panelist Diwe Augustin-Glave of Oberlin College discussed the importance of ritual and honoring the dead in the face of authoritarian pressures that hold us back.

The panelists' remarks then transitioned into an open discussion for all attendees. Speakers included a range of students, college faculty, parents and others, who both built off of each other's ideas and stories and raised their own. Topics of conversation included the commodification and defiling of Black bodies, the perpetuation of white privilege and entitlement, lack of intersectional understanding, current political injustice and the connection between belonging and blame for racialized violence. The final audience member who spoke remarked, "Watching a production full of diverse, beautiful, talented people of color was really important to me; it made me understand that I should never be afraid of my Blackness ... that my Blackness is too much or won't get me to where I want to go."

Theater of War Productions' next virtual performance, *The Book of Job*, will be presented to Knox County in early December. This production aims to inspire an interfaith, post-election discussion with Knox County.

Joji's newest album *Nectar* puts a twist on bedroom pop

JAKE CORCORAN
STAFF WRITER

Originally known for his outrageous characters, Filthy Frank and Pink Guy, from comedy sketches on his YouTube channel, Joji and his new album *Nectar* are a far cry from his early days. Originally slated for release on July 10, Joji pushed his album back to the end of September due to the pandemic. Though it didn't quite match the level of anticipation Frank Ocean gained when teasing his latest release, over time expectations rose. The "Harlem Shake" creator turned alternative music star offers easier listenability and mass appeal on *Nectar*, but some will yearn for the moodiness of *Ballads 1*.

With each of Joji's new projects comes a more sophisticated sound than before. The first track in *Nectar*, "Ew," is an elevated production compared to the roughly synthed "sadboi" aesthetic of his past work. The track is not a departure from his hip-hop-influenced, genre-bending tendencies, but rather shows tighter mixing, which adds to his strong appeal among Gen-Z listeners.

Going into a new Joji album, I expected tracks about hopeless romantics alongside some more commercial hits. He delivers on both of these expectations, but not quite in the way veteran Joji fans are used to. Darker tracks that took up a lot of runtime on *Ballads 1* are disappointingly given a smaller role on *Nectar*.

Features from Diplo on "Daylight" and Lil Yachty on "Pretty Boy" are some of the most exciting moments on the album, brightening up what are otherwise



The cover of Joji's second album, *Nectar* | COURTESY OF 88RISING FACEBOOK PAGE

darker songs. "Pretty Boy" really shows how much Lil Yachty's voice has evolved since his early days, with some nice swinging vocals, heavily auto-tuned and reminiscent of T-Pain. "Daylight," on the other hand, might be the most well-rounded song of the bunch, pairing splashy guitar chords with a robust chorus and relatable lyrics. My personal favorite Joji song, "SLOW DANCING IN THE DARK," remains that for me after *Nectar*'s release: It's the pinnacle of his dreamy voice, pre-

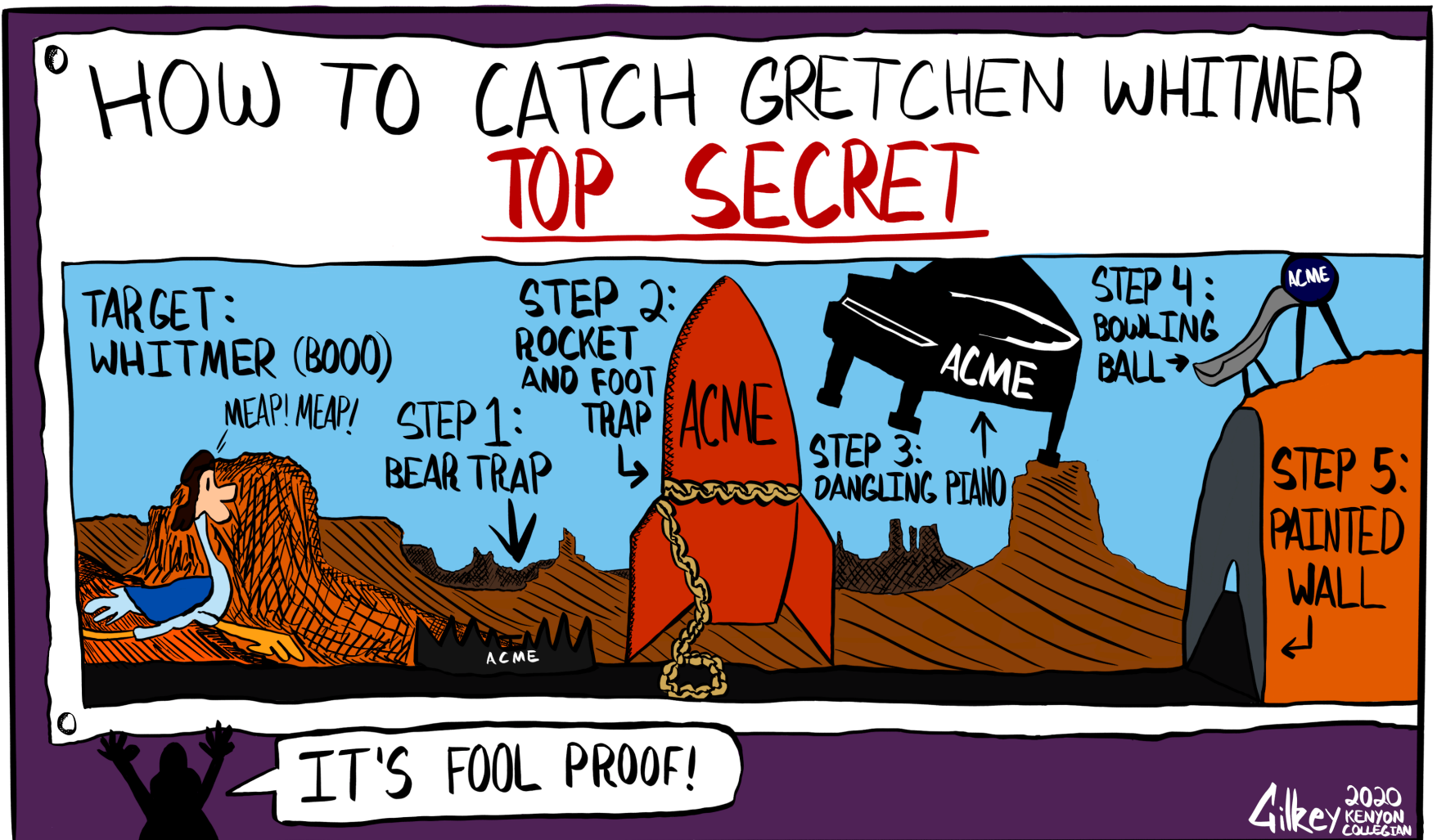
sented in full force, split up by high-hatted beat switches.

Joji's music has always come from his willingness to experiment, and *Nectar* does not differ in this regard. A common critique of Joji's work is a lack of lyrical depth. He is not impervious to the tropes of bedroom pop love songs, and his writing can feel predictable and cliched more often than I'd like. As he's said in many interviews, Joji is more invested in his beats and the overall vibe of a track: he doesn't

make music for critics to dwell on every last stanza in search of some deeper significance. You play his music on long bus rides, somber late night walks and solo listening parties in your dorm room. While *Nectar* is better suited for your car's speakers, it's also more versatile than anything else we've seen from Joji before.

Favorite Tracks: "Daylight" feat. Diplo, "Sanctuary," "Mr. Hollywood," "Like You Do"

Rating: 7/10



MICHIGAN'S GOV. IS IN FOR A SUPRISE

ALEX GILKEY

Ban brine from Knox County

MADI HAMILTON
CONTRIBUTOR

The destruction of the environment already impacts so many lives, with climate change already causing more intense wildfires and hurricanes across the world. Even though we're already seeing the devastating effects of corporations' actions, it is still incredibly difficult for climate activists to push policies forward that work to eradicate fossil fuels. My research within ECO over the past few months has brought up an adjacent issue that's right in front of us. It's called brine, and we need to ban it from Knox County.

Brine is a radioactive waste byproduct of oil drilling and hydraulic fracturing, commonly referred to as fracking. Some samples of Ohio brine emit 1,900 times more alpha radiation than the EPA's safe level for drinking water. Alpha radiation, on its own, cannot penetrate the skin, but brine can attach to dust particles and be inhaled.

When ingested, brine can have devastating effects on the body. Some workers dealing with brine have reported having to quit their jobs because they become too sick to continue, suffering alarmingly high rates of sarcoma or cancer of the bone or bone marrow. Oil companies are not obligated to inform these workers that they are dealing with radioactive material.

Almost all brine is returned underground through injection wells. There are 225 in Ohio — one of which is 15 minutes from Kenyon and close to the Kokosing River — compared to seven in all of Pennsylvania. Last year, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) found instances of brine leak-

ing from injection wells to oil wells and potentially to drinking water sources. Once brine leaches into drinking water, there is no way to extract it; anyone without an alternative water source has to ingest the radioactive water.

In Ohio, 29 counties legally use brine as a de-icing agent instead of rock salt, though its effectiveness is matched by mixing salt and water that are not radioactive. It is not only legal for municipalities to spread brine, but also to sell it to the general public. If House Bill 545 passes, ODNR would lose its regulatory power of the sale of brine. This bill was introduced in March 2020 and threatens to remove liability from oil companies and require less disclosure on lab tests.

Kenyon, the Village of Gambier and Mount Vernon do not spread brine on city streets, but it is spread on county and state roads in Knox County. This is happening in our state and county, which makes it our responsibility. Everyone must recognize the urgency of this public health situation, and join ECO in an effort to ban brine spreading in Knox County. Call on Knox County officials to oppose spreading brine on our roads. Fight brine spreading by calling members of the Ohio House of Representatives Energy and Natural Resources Committee to reject House Bill 545. This is yet another reason to vote in this election — so we can elect representatives who put public health above the oil industry.

Please join ECO Sundays at 4 p.m. in this fight against a harmful public health issue.

Madi Hamilton '23 is a sophomore and undeclared major from Los Altos, Calif. She can be contacted at hamilton6@kenyon.edu.

Radicalize climate activism

REBECCA RENNER
CONTRIBUTOR

On Saturday, Sept. 19, two artists transformed a clock in New York's Union Square into a "Climate Doomsday Clock," counting down the time the human race has left before the damage we've done to the environment is irreversible. The clock gives us seven years, but much of the damage has already been done — in the past 50 years, around 17% of the Amazon rainforest has been destroyed — will continue to be done. We must therefore reevaluate Kenyon's role in halting climate change, and where we have fallen short.

Colleges and universities, as investors and as educators, are big players in environmentalism, whether we like to think of them as one or not. Harvard University, for one, came under fire for its investments in the fossil fuel industry — of the 1% they have disclosed of their endowment, \$5.6 million went towards fossil fuels. This means one of the most renowned American universities has been actively funding environmental downfall. Reconstructing Kenyon's climate plan is an important piece of a wider effort against environmental collapse.

Currently, the Office of Green Initiatives does not plan for Kenyon to be carbon-neutral until 2040. By 2040, the human race will have left an irreparable dent in the environment. Sea levels are already on the rise, wildfires and other natural disasters are becoming increasingly frequent, and ecosystems are struggling to survive. This makes a deadline for carbon neutrality set 20 years in the future both futile and laughable.

Private institutions, from clothing companies to colleges, have been implementing green initiatives to create an illusion of climate activism. My peers, for example, have noticed Peirce's switch to compostable cutlery, yet there really is nowhere for anyone

on campus to compost. These token initiatives are not enough, and never have been.

Rather than altering our own lives, students' sustainability efforts should be focused on political activism. Legislative changes can do a lot more than our refusal of plastic straws. This activism can include anything, from organizing phone banks and writing letters to our Ohio representatives to researching and funding environmentalist organizations and candidates.

But the burden of action shouldn't fall completely on college students. College administrations have a duty to listen when their students push for divestment from fossil fuels. Even if Kenyon plays a smaller role in producing emissions than sprawling state schools or research universities, if the College aims for carbon neutrality by 2030 instead of 2040, it would greatly impact Knox County as a whole.

For a long time, those who took interest in environmentalism thought that condemning plastic coffee cups and meat eating was a sufficient form of activism. And I'm not suggesting we halt our efforts to be more sustainable in our daily lives — we all can be a little bit kinder to our Earth. But the idea of a "personal carbon footprint" was developed by corporations to exonerate themselves. As climate activists, as students and as people who generally want to delay our own demise, we need to direct our attention in a way that is more radical and more focused on what we're really up against.

Kenyon's role in the fight against climate change will be costly. But at some point we must ask ourselves what is more important: the preservation of our endowment, or the preservation of the world we are sending our graduates into?

Rebecca Renner '24 is a first year and undeclared major from New York City, N.Y. She can be contacted at renner1@kenyon.edu.

STAFF EDITORIAL

The College must stop breaking the community’s trust

This past week, the *Collegian* published a story regarding Campus Senate’s Oct. 7 meeting with members of K-SWOC. As outlined in the article, the *Collegian* was informed on the evening of Sunday, Oct. 4 that our staff was not allowed to report on or record the meetings’ breakout discussions. When they went to the event, however, reporters were told that they would not be able to enter the breakout rooms in the first place.

The *Collegian* was not included in this decision-making process, which is an insult in itself. We were told by both members of Senate and the administration where and when we could and couldn’t send our reporters. There is no way of getting around the fact that this incident is a clear attack on the freedom of the press.

Even though Kenyon is a private institution and is technically not bound by the U.S. Constitution’s freedom of the press, the Campus Senate’s attempt to restrict the *Collegian*’s reporting of a public meeting is deeply concerning. The fact that the *Collegian* was not allowed to even record the breakout rooms, let alone gather background information, demonstrates a clear sign of fear on the administration’s behalf: fear both of what student employee unionization could mean for the College and how their missteps in handling it might be depicted by the *Collegian*.

But we would be remiss if we were to only emphasize the ways in which this incident threatened freedom of the press. The more pressing question at hand is this: Why would an administration, with an already poor track record regarding transparency, exclude its student newspaper from a meeting which is being held for the presumed purpose of transparency? The meeting was public; anyone in the College community could register to attend. If the *Collegian* was not allowed to record it, why even bother making it a public meeting?

The exclusion of *Collegian* reporters from the breakout rooms also suggests that the administration knew its members would say or do something it does not want us — the *Collegian*, the student body and the Kenyon community — to hear.

But this is precisely where the administration erred: By keeping its newspaper in the dark, the administration prioritized its desire to save face over the trust of its community. This incident was yet another example of members of Kenyon’s administration refusing to be completely transparent and open with the community.

However, this incident is bigger than K-SWOC and bigger than the *Collegian*. The way the administration handled the meeting just gives the student body another reason to distrust it.

The staff editorial is written weekly by editors-in-chief Mae Hunt ’21 and Evey Weisblat ’21, managing editor Sophie Krichevsky ’21 and executive director Elizabeth Stanley ’21. You can contact them at hunt1@kenyon.edu, weisblat1@kenyon.edu, krichevsky1@kenyon.edu and stanley2@kenyon.edu, respectively.

Oct. 8 Solutions

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Did you finish this crossword? Email a photo of your completed crossword to crossword@kenyoncollegian.com.

You can also complete this crossword online at kenyoncollegian.com/section/opinion.

The opinions page is a space for members of the community to discuss issues relevant to the campus and the world at large. The opinions expressed on this page belong only to the writers. Columns and letters to the editors do not reflect the opinions of the *Collegian* staff. All members of the community are welcome to express opinions through a letter to the editor.

The *Kenyon Collegian* reserves the right to edit all letters submitted for length and clarity. The *Collegian* cannot accept anonymous or pseudonymous letters. Letters must be signed by individuals, not organizations, and must be 200 words or fewer. Letters must also be received no later than the Tuesday prior to publication. The *Kenyon Collegian* prints as many letters as possible each week subject to space, interest and appropriateness. Members of the editorial board reserve the right to reject any submission. The views expressed in the paper do not necessarily reflect the views of Kenyon College.

REILLY WIELAND
CROSSWORD EDITOR

ETHAN BONNELL
CONTRIBUTOR

CROSSWORD

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13 English river that sounds like it flows very slowly

14 One part of Texas’ nickname

15 Our beloved unofficial mascot

16 Shamu’s species

17 “I’ll let you ____ a secret”

18 Liberal ____, or a Neiman Marxist

19 The return label you check twice on your ballot

22 Roughly 33.8 ounces of liquid, to a Brit

23 Constitution article dealing with treason

24 A bro at a kickback, or the 2000 election’s point of contention

30 Angel dust, initially

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34 Columbus ____ the ocean blue in 1492 (to rape and pillage)

36 A conspiracy theorist’s insult for a conformist

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62 Faithful, honest, in old poetic terms somebody born between 1965 and 1985, perhaps

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65 Pretty simple

66 Correct typos, say

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69 “____ date,” for a betrothed
- 1 Rapper MF ____

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3 Computer character code

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29 “Let’s shake on it”

30 LA’s clock setting come November

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32 Coin, in Juarez

35 A martini with only a little vermouth

37 A medical test involving red blood cells, for short

38 A Democrat dating a Republican, perhaps

40 A key part of BYOB

43 Prefix to -meter or -scope

45 In a strange, spooky way

48 Takes a spin class

49 California’s Big ____

50 Pizza units

53 Liszt or Chopin creation

54 An option for paying with plastic

55 Left-handed Beatle

56 Words between “step” and “the plate”

57 Huffed and puffed

58 Stitched junction on your jeans

59 After two puffs

60 Poll numbers, essentially

61 An unruly crowd

NFL season in jeopardy as teams deal with COVID-19 cases

TATI GROSS
DESIGN ASSISTANT

After the NFL decided to start their season with limited COVID-19 protocols, the league has begun to encounter difficulty with the virus. The Tennessee Titans were the first team to have an outbreak in Week 4, after having minimal cases in the first three weeks. Since then, there has been an abundance of positive COVID-19 tests throughout the league. The highest number of cases have come from the Titans, the New England Patriots and the Kansas City Chiefs.

After returning from their game on Sept. 17 in Minnesota, nine Titans players and nine personnel have tested positive. As a result, the Titans Week 4 home game against the Pittsburgh Steelers has been postponed to Week 7. By Oct. 8, five more Titans players and personnel had tested positive. The Patriots have had two positive tests: quarterback Cam Newton and star cornerback Stephon Gilmore. The Chiefs have also had a strength and conditioning coach reportedly test positive.

In July, the NFL sent COVID-19 protocols for the 2020 training camp and the start of the season. The testing process involves the formation of two groups of NFL personnel and players. Tier 1 consists of players and essential personnel who regularly require direct access to players for an extended period of time. Tier 2, on the other hand, includes other essential personnel who may need to be periodically in close proximity to players and other Tier 1 individuals. Tier 1 and Tier 2 individuals are both tested daily, except on game days. Off the field, the NFL extended its agreement with the NFL Players Association (NFLPA) to continue daily COVID-19 testing on non-game days, including during bye weeks. To facilitate daily testing, players and coaches will not be allowed to leave their team's city during their bye week.

With these recent outbreaks, the NFL has been forced to reconsider its approach to the pandemic. The



After 18 positive cases, the Titans' Week 4 game was postponed. | TENNESSEE TITANS VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

NFL sent out a memo to all 32 teams on Oct. 5 detailing new additions to the league's COVID-19 protocols. The new rules focus on altering the free-agent process, banning off-site team facility gatherings and puts in place a new video system that will monitor the entire league. "All staff members and players [must] wear PPE [personal protective equipment] while in a club facility and on travel at all times," the league explained.

The NFL has also issued new punitive measures for teams that violate these protocols, including potential game forfeitures. "Protocol violations that result in virus spread requiring adjustments to the schedule or otherwise impacting other teams will result in additional financial and competitive discipline, including the adjustment or loss of draft choices or even the forfeit of the game," the memo stated. Additionally, the NFL issued strict recommendations for team meetings such as holding all meetings virtually, wearing masks during practices and walkthroughs and reducing time spent in locker rooms.

The changes may sound simple, but certain habits are hard for players to break. Postgame greetings between opposing players are so commonplace that players often forget social distancing protocols. Images of Gilmore and Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes embracing after a game went viral on social media following their Week 3 matchup. Players have been trying to avoid postgame interactions this season, and Mahomes later called his contact with Gilmore a lapse in judgment. Mahomes says he knew playing this season would be a challenge amid the COVID-19 pandemic. "We knew that coming into the season," Mahomes told NFL.com on Wednesday. "If you thought you were going to go through the entire season and no one was going to test positive, then you had a little bit of false hope."

Some players, however, don't seem as worried about the pandemic. Kirk Cousins, quarterback of the Minnesota Vikings, had an unreasonable take on his strategy for dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. In an appearance on Spotify's *10 Questions with Kyle Brandt* in July, Cousins admitted that, although he will follow the NFL's protocols, his personal level of concern is about "0.000001" out of 10. "If I get it, I'm gonna ride it out," he said. "I'm gonna let nature do its course. Survival of the fittest kind of an approach: If it knocks me out, it knocks me out. ... If I die, I die. I kind of have peace about that." Cousins later attempted to clarify his comments, telling the media in a press conference that while "the virus does not give me a great amount of personal fear, there's still great reason for me to engage [in the NFL's protocols]."

The NFL and NFLPA are currently investigating whether a number of teams have violated the

league's original COVID-19 protocols, sources told ESPN's Adam Schefter. "This isn't a failure of the protocols; it is a failure to follow the protocols," an anonymous source said. Despite Tennessee's adamant statements that they have obeyed every rule, the league has asked the team to turn over multiple videotapes of team activities to determine the root of the outbreak. The Las Vegas Raiders are also under NFL investigation for allowing an unauthorized team employee to evade security checkpoints and enter the locker room. The Raiders have already been heavily fined for not adhering to COVID-19 protocols: Head coach Jon Gruden was hit with a \$100,000 fine for not wearing a face mask on the sidelines of a Week 2 matchup against the Saints. Gruden joins a list of head coaches across the league, including Kyle Shanahan of the San Francisco 49ers, Vic Fangio of the Denver Broncos and Pete Carroll of the Seattle Seahawks, who have also been fined, according to NPR.

Besides managing cases, the NFL found its hands full with rescheduling and placing further restrictions on teams — some of the most dramatic changes coming from this week alone. The changes to the schedules of 11 teams has created some challenging travel plans: The New York Jets will have to fly across the country three times in five weeks, while the Patriots and the Broncos have both lost their bye weeks and the Baltimore Ravens will have to play five straight games with no break.

If the increase in outbreaks continues, the NFL may be forced to shorten their season according to numerous analysts. The Pro Bowl was cancelled Wednesday, and sources say it's likely that more cancellations will come down the line.

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Fall Sports Spotlight: Men's Soccer

TATI GROSS
DESIGN ASSISTANT

With fall sports postponed until the spring, the Collegian has decided to look at how Kenyon athletes are navigating these difficult circumstances. Each week, we will provide an update on one of the fall sports teams. This week, we are highlighting the men's soccer team.

As they attempt to stay healthy, the Kenyon men's soccer team has managed to stay in positive spirits. With primarily first years and sophomores on campus, the dynamic of the team has undoubtedly changed. Due to the pandemic, they have been forced to make adjustments to how they train, as well as how they socialize.

In accordance with Kenyon and NCAA guidelines, the Lords' training protocol was divided into phases. In Phase 1, their coach split the team into two practice groups. Neither group was allowed to interact on the field, only coming into contact with one another in the locker room. Each team member had their own ball, water bottle and exercise band



The Lords are optimistic that NCAC play will return to Mavec Field soon. | COURTESY OF KENYON ATHLETICS

in an effort to keep equipment separated. In Phase 2, the teams moved from independent drills focusing on ball skills and juggling to passing drills with more contact. Phase 3 was supposed to start on Monday, Oct. 4, and would have included live scrimmaging, but the College required teams to stay in Phase 2 until further notice due to recent violations of COVID-19 protocols.

As for the dynamics of the team, center-midfielder David McCrory '23 has mixed feelings about a sea-

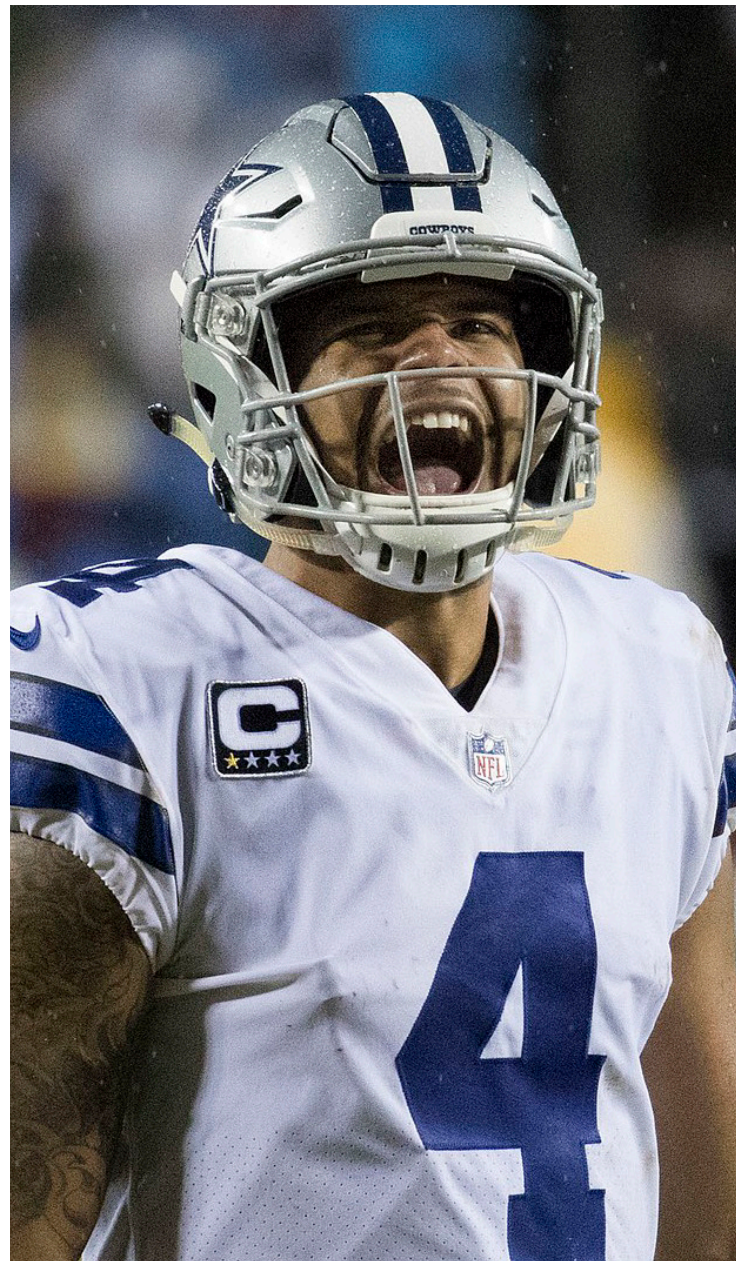
son without his upperclass teammates. "It's tough, but not having the juniors and seniors around adds a bit of responsibility," he said. He explained that the team felt closer before social distancing was in place. Now, as Joey Martins '24 says, the team "rotates through people's rooms to get to know everyone" and members "eat dinners outside, doing group activities, following guidelines."

Though he acknowledged the difficulties of navigating the season

without upperclass teammates to look up to, Martins felt that the team was making the best of it. "The team here is amazing, the guys here are great and a lot of them have stepped up into leadership roles younger than they might've normally," he said. "We haven't lost the competitive side of it, even with masks on."

The Lords are hoping to return to competitive play in the spring semester. For now, they are appreciating the opportunity to play amongst themselves.

Prescott and Hurst to collaborate on mental health initiative



Dak Prescott has opened up about his struggles with mental health. | KEITH ALLISON VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

HUIJUN MAO
STAFF WRITER

After the Dallas Cowboys defeated the Atlanta Falcons 40-39 on Sept. 20., Atlanta tight end Hayden Hurst approached Dallas quarterback Dak Prescott to thank him for talking openly about his struggles with mental health. Soon after, the two announced they would be forming a mental health coalition between their two organizations.

Earlier in April, Prescott's brother Jace committed suicide, which Prescott largely attributes to the passing of their mother. Since then, Prescott has decided to be more public about his own struggles with depression and anxiety. "I think being open about it and not holding those feelings in was one of the better things for me," said Prescott during a virtual press conference.

Hurst spoke with ESPN after the brief encounter with Prescott. "I thought it was awesome for a guy to come out and talk about that topic and use his platform to try and help and save lives," he said. "I've got nothing but respect for him because I know how hard it is going through stuff like that."

Hurst began to play foot-

ball for the University of South Carolina in 2015. He has suffered from an anxiety disorder since he was 19. In January 2016, he attempted suicide. After recovering from the attempt, he started psychological therapy to address his depression and anxiety.

Hurst has been open about his mental health. In 2018, Hurst launched the Hayden Hurst Family Foundation, aimed at raising awareness of mental health issues in children and adolescents by funding mental health services and programs. By sharing his story, Hurst hopes to help adolescent athletes come to terms with their mental health struggles and reach out for help. "The goal is to kind of clip the kids now, before something dramatic happens and they don't have the tools to deal with it," Hurst told ESPN staff writer Vaughn McClure in May.

Prescott also set up a foundation called the Faith Fight Finish Foundation in honor of his late mother and her fight with colon cancer. The foundation aims to fund further cancer research and help young athletes overcome adversity. Although Prescott and Hurst have been dedicated to philanthropic endeavors, they both have a strong

motivation to raise awareness surrounding mental health struggles. As a result, Hurst and Prescott decided to cooperate with each other on mental health initiatives.

Due to the long-held stigma around mental health, a lot of athletes are hesitant to seek help. Yet, mental health problems are certainly prevalent, with one in five people experiencing mental illness in the US during their lifetime, according to Mental Health First Aid. Moreover, the ongoing pandemic has produced even more suffering due to forced isolation, financial instability and loss of loved ones.

As athletes continue to raise awareness of mental health issues, colleges and universities have joined in the movement, working to boost their mental health programs. The Mental Health and Wellness Cabinet is the first major public initiative of Big Ten Conference commissioner Kevin Warren. The Cabinet consists of 31 experts from 14 institutions of the league. "This is all about the student-athletes, to tell how much we love, admire, respect, appreciate them, to give them the resources that we're here, they can talk about it," Warren told ESPN.